AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-36 (Cancelled).

Claim 37 (New): A method for operating a haptic interface unit including a haptic device used by a user for navigating through a displayed list of items and configured to exert an interaction feedback force, the method including the steps of:

performing an inverted damping operation mode in which a strength of the interaction feedback force is inverse proportional to a velocity described by velocity data information generated or received by the haptic device;

performing a holding force mode in which a strength of the interaction feedback force tends to hold at least one of a user's finger or a hand in place;

performing a force well mode in which the interaction feedback force is modulated by values of underlying data included in the displayed list of items;

leaving the performing of the inverted damping operation mode when a velocity falls below a damping threshold velocity; and

entering the performing of the inverted damping operation mode when the velocity increases above the damping threshold velocity.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

the velocity data information describes at least one of a velocity of a pointing unit or pointing device moved by a user operating the haptic device.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

the velocity is a velocity with respect to the haptic device.

Claim 40 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

the velocity data information describes a velocity of the at least one of a finger or a hand movement of a user operating the haptic device.

Claim 41 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

in said step of performing the inverted damping operation mode, the interaction feedback force increases with decreasing velocity and decreases with increasing velocity.

Claim 42 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

in said step of performing the holding force mode, the absolute value of the interaction feedback force is increased in a position dependent form to a predetermined value or above a predetermined force level, when the respective velocity decreases below a given threshold value.

Claim 43 (New): The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of:

switching from the step of performing the holding force mode to the step of performing the force well mode, when a counterforce greater than a preset force threshold is applied to the haptic device.

Claim 44 (New): The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of:

switching from the step of performing the force well mode to the step of performing the holding force mode, when the counterforce lower than the preset force threshold is applied to the haptic device.

Claim 45 (New): The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of:

entering the step of performing holding force mode when the step of performing the inverted damping operation mode is left.

Claim 46 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

the haptic device comprises a robot arm simulating a force-feedback input device.

Claim 47 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the haptic device includes a push button or a rotary dial augmented with a damping unit including a magnetorheological fluid, the method further comprising the step of:

applying a magnetic field to align suspended iron particles in the fluid to alter the viscosity of the fluid.

Claim 48 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein

in the step of performing the force well mode, the force is increased when at least one of a pointing unit or a pointing device is moved by the user towards a boundary between two neighboring items in the displayed list of items.

Claim 49 (New): A method of operating a studio audio mixer including a haptic device, wherein

parameters of the studio audio mixer are displayed as ordered lists of items respectively, and the parameters are selected using the method of claim 37.

Claim 50 (New): A method of operating a radio receiver including a haptic device, wherein radio stations are displayed as an ordered list of stations, and one of the radio stations is selected using the method of claim 37.